

# TWIN SPICA

Kou Yaginuma



9



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9



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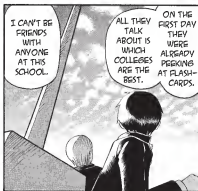


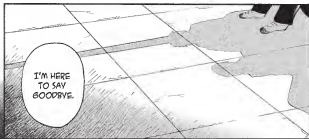
MISSION:42













LIKE  
HELPING  
ORPHANS  
GET  
EDUCATION  
AND  
COUNSELING.

IT FOCUSES  
ON SUPPORT  
OPERATIONS  
IN DISASTER  
AREAS IN  
DEVELOPING  
COUNTRIES.

I WAS  
ACCEPTED  
INTO A  
YOUTH  
OVERSEAS  
VOLUNTEER  
GROUP.



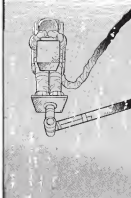
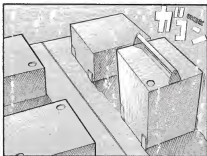
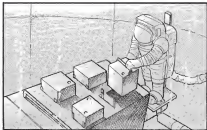
I WON'T BE  
COMING BACK  
TO JAPAN  
FOR AT LEAST  
5 YEARS.















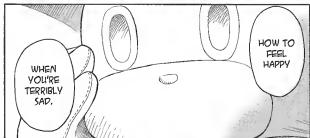
ALL COURSE GENERAL CURRICULUM FINAL EXAMS

	Field 1	Field 2	Field 3	Field 4	Make-up Field
11:00-12:00	English (written)				
13:00-14:00	Math (written)	English (written)	Math	Social studies	
15:00-16:00	Science	Classical Japanese	Geography	Japanese history	
17:00-18:00	Chemistry	Modern Japanese	Physics	World history	



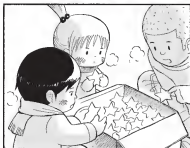






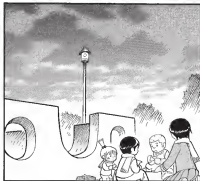






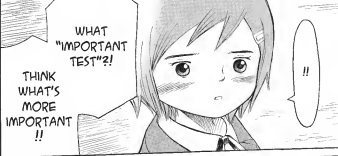












WHAT  
"IMPORTANT  
TEST"?!

THINK  
WHAT'S  
MORE  
IMPORTANT  
!!

!!



WHAT'S  
IMPORTANT  
IS HOW  
YOU FEEL  
RIGHT  
NOW!

SO WHAT  
IF HE JUST  
LOOKS  
LIKE HIM?

STOP  
WORRYING  
ABOUT WHAT  
A DEAD KID  
WILL THINK  
!!

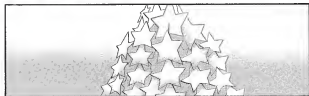


TELL  
HIM  
YOU  
LIKE  
HIM

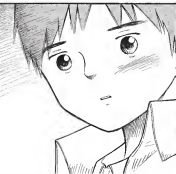
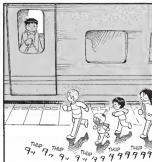
IF  
YOU  
LIKE  
HIM!!

JUST  
BE  
YOUR-  
SELF  
AND



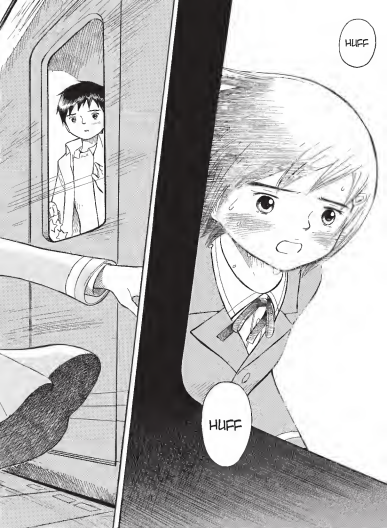




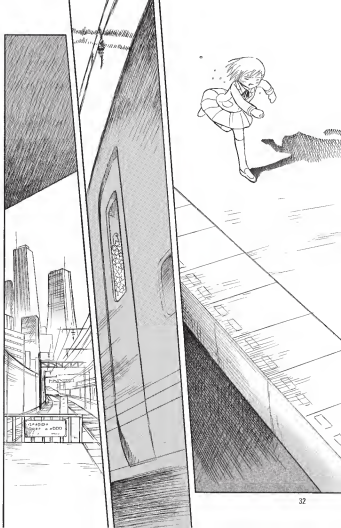


HUFF

HUFF







## MISSION:43





This is the  
first time  
I've  
written  
such a  
letter.



but  
I can't  
seem to  
find  
the words.  
I keep  
rewriting it.

I'm not  
sure I can  
tell you  
in person so  
I'm writing  
it down  
instead,



what  
I'm thinking  
right now.

Still,  
I've tried  
my best to  
express



I'd been  
wanting to

apologize  
for what  
I said to you  
that day.

THOSE  
UNIFORMS  
MAKE ME  
SICK.



making the  
time for  
marches and  
gatherings.

Back then,  
I took part  
in anti-  
rocket  
demon-  
strations,





The truth is that I wasn't passionate about it.



It was just a collection of individual wills.

But the protests weren't backed by any organization.



and all that went with it.

THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION IS COMPLETING ITS MISSION...

I'd been indifferent about the space program



It was pretty pathetic.

after someone at Sunflower Garden practically forced me to join.

In fact, I only got involved



that's probably because I tried not to think about anything that reminded me of "The Lion."

And

To escape  
all that,

I went  
to the  
planetarium  
every  
day.



I was too  
shy to  
try out  
trendy  
things or  
gossip  
with my  
classmates.

I was  
always  
alone at  
school  
and  
at the  
orphanage.

Come to  
think  
of it,



I liked  
the  
feeling of  
security.

I never  
felt  
alienated  
there.



The only  
thing they  
talked about  
there was  
the stars.



I even  
thought  
I preferred  
it that way.



Before  
I knew it,  
I got used  
to being  
alone.

They didn't know what it was like, but they tried to comfort and talk to me.

HANG IN THERE.

I'M SO SORRY.

SO YOU LOST YOUR PARENTS IN THE CRASH ?

All the anti-rocket protesters knew me as someone who was orphaned by "The Lion."

just pity and sympathy,

...

Even if it was

I did feel a little of ease with them.



That's where I was when we met.



I'd  
never gain  
what  
you had.

Because  
no  
matter  
how much  
I studied,

I realize  
I was  
just  
jealous  
of you.

When  
I  
look  
back  
now,



wasn't about  
resentment  
over  
but a  
desperate  
bluff.

"The Lian"  
accident,

ROCKETS  
ARE  
WEAPONS!

What  
I  
said  
next



I started  
to see  
unbelievable  
things  
I'd never  
seen  
before.

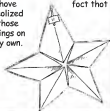
And  
once  
that chain  
came  
loose,

As I got  
to know you,  
I realized  
that my  
bluff was  
meaningless.



I'd never  
have  
realized  
those  
things on  
my own.

and the  
fact that



I started  
to notice  
people's  
kindness  
and  
warmth

It's humble  
compared to  
becoming an  
astronaut,  
but  
I found  
my own  
dream.



As I  
struggled  
with the  
changes  
in my  
heart,  
I  
began to  
seriously  
consider  
my own  
future.

I might  
stumble  
along  
the  
way.

The  
realities  
there  
might be  
far harsher  
than I  
imagine.

People  
might  
tell me  
I'm  
being  
naive,  
but I  
want to  
hold on  
to what  
I'm  
feeling  
now.



I want  
to help  
other  
orphans  
like  
me.

That's  
why I  
decided to  
volunteer  
overseas.

But

I want to  
try to be  
someone  
who goes on,  
who looks up,  
no matter  
what.

On my way  
back, though,  
I stopped by  
Yuigahama.



My main  
reason  
was a  
training  
course  
for  
volunteers.

You heard  
that  
I'd left  
for a bit.



Even  
though  
it's my  
birthplace,  
it felt like  
my first  
time  
there.



I don't  
remember  
living  
there.  
I can't  
remember  
the  
accident,  
either.



The sky and  
the sea at  
Yuigahama  
were truly  
beautiful.

I'd never  
simply  
sat and  
watched  
the sea  
before.



The sea  
was just  
steps  
from the  
station.



and  
climbed  
the long  
stairs  
to the  
memorial.

I  
wandered  
the  
streets



You'd never  
think such  
a terrible  
accident  
had  
occurred  
there.





I met with  
an abbot  
who was  
classmates  
with my mom.  
He told me  
about my  
parents.



At night,  
the pain  
apparently  
got so bad  
that I cried  
and cried.



When  
I was a baby,  
my neck  
swelled due  
to some  
illness.



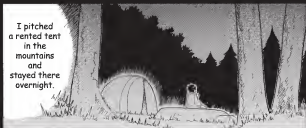
My neck still  
feels that  
sometimes.  
Maybe it's  
a vestige of  
my days as  
that baby.

She would  
stroke  
my neck  
until  
morning  
without  
sleeping.



My mom  
was a big  
worrier,  
he said.

I pitched  
a rented tent  
in the  
mountains  
and  
stayed there  
overnight.



was  
really  
something.

Yuigahama's  
star-studded  
sky

You can't  
even  
compare  
it to  
the meager  
one in  
Tokyo.

It's a  
gorgeous  
night  
sky.

I've  
heard  
that the  
country  
I'm  
headed  
to

many  
more  
pretty  
night  
skies.

I  
might  
live to  
see



no matter  
where  
I look up  
at stars,



But I  
suspect



will always  
come back  
to me as  
the most  
beautiful,  
and wistful.



the  
slightly  
smaggy  
Tokyo  
night  
sky



because



will  
always  
come back  
to me



I suspect  
the  
night sky  
I saw  
then





They don't talk  
about it, but  
they all bear  
their own  
separate  
sorrows.



I hope  
it's not  
impolite  
of me to  
ask,  
  
but  
please  
stop by  
the  
Sunflower  
Garden  
once  
in a  
while.



Akane always  
sleeps with  
that  
battle rocket  
you made her.



I don't  
know  
when  
we'll meet  
next.  
  
I'm not  
going to  
say  
goodbye,  
though.





I do  
regret  
that.

To Asumi Kamogawa

If  
we'd met  
a little  
sooner

we could have  
talked about  
so many  
things...

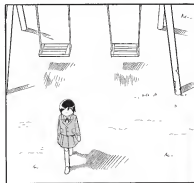
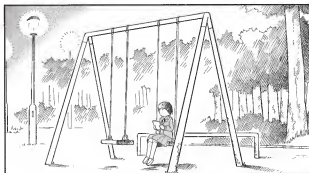
Thank  
you—

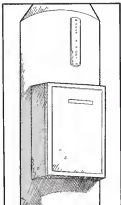
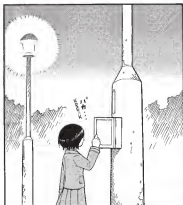
thank  
you  
so  
much.

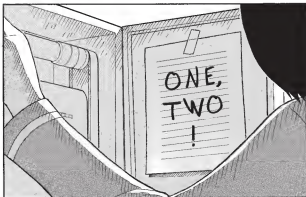
But I am  
really lucky  
that  
I met you.

you'll be  
up there  
your dream  
come true.

I pray  
that  
when I  
look up  
at the  
starry sky  
one day







no matter  
where  
I look up  
at stars,



But I  
sus-  
pect

will  
always  
come back  
to me



the  
slightly  
smoggy  
Tokyo  
night sky  
I saw  
then

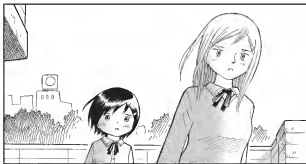
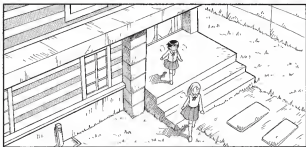


because



you were  
by my side.







$$= 1 - \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{\alpha} \ln \frac{1}{1 - \alpha}}$$

*Agave* *Agave* *Agave*

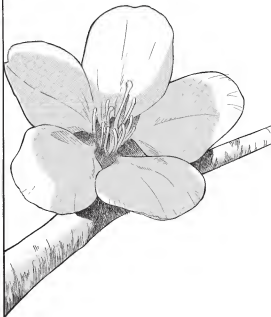
$$e = \rho_0 \frac{B_{\text{max}}}{\rho_0} \frac{B}{B_{\text{max}}} = \rho_0 \frac{B}{B_{\text{max}}} \frac{B_{\text{max}}}{\rho_0} = B$$

Answer:  $\log_{10} 100 = 2$

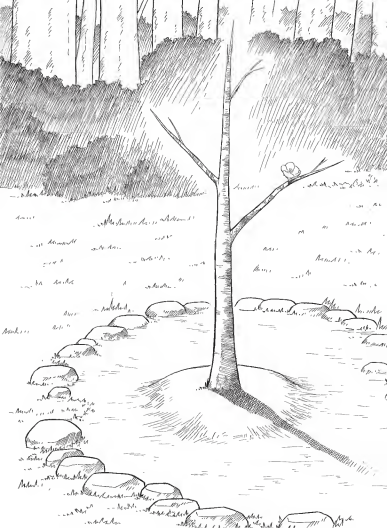

 a house with a chimney  
 as a house

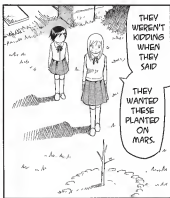
A hand-drawn sketch of a rock formation. It shows a large, rounded rock mass with a smaller, more angular rock fragment in front of it. The larger rock is labeled 'A' and the smaller one is labeled 'B'. Handwritten notes 'Foliated' and 'Schistosity' are written near the rocks.

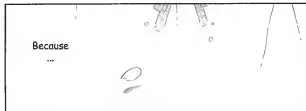
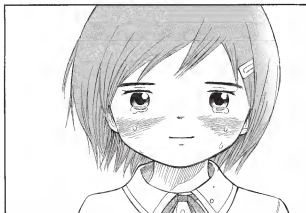
Three simple line drawings of rocks. The top rock is labeled '1' and has a small 'a' above it. The middle rock is labeled '2' and has a small 'b' above it. The bottom rock is labeled '3' and has a small 'c' above it. Each rock is shaded with diagonal lines to indicate its three-dimensional form.









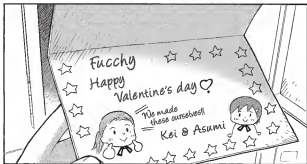
















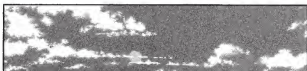
MISSION:44

**ALL COURSES  
GENERAL CURRICULUM  
SCHEDULE FOR  
MAKE-UP EXAMS**

2/27	3/1	3/5	3
			M
English (grammar)	Modern Japanese		S
English (listening)	Japanese History	Classical Japanese	
	World History	Physics	



















THE  
COLORS  
YOU  
SEE AS  
A CHILD

WILL  
NEVER  
FADE.

LISTEN,  
SHINNO-  
SUKE.

SEE  
AS MANY  
THINGS  
AS YOU  
CAN.



AIR AND  
SOUND  
HAVE  
COLOR.

THEY FIND  
EXPRESSION  
IN THE  
COLORS OF  
FIREWORKS.

AND  
IT'S NOT  
JUST  
THINGS  
THAT  
HAVE  
COLOR.  
EXPERI-  
ENCES,  
EVENTS,  
FEELINGS  
...



I  
NEVER  
SAID

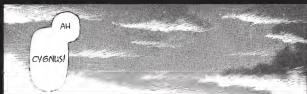
I WANTED  
TO MAKE  
FIREWORKS.

SEEZ.



TSK.

WE'RE  
MAKING  
SPARKLERS  
TOMOR-  
ROW.  
DON'T  
OVER-  
SLEEP.

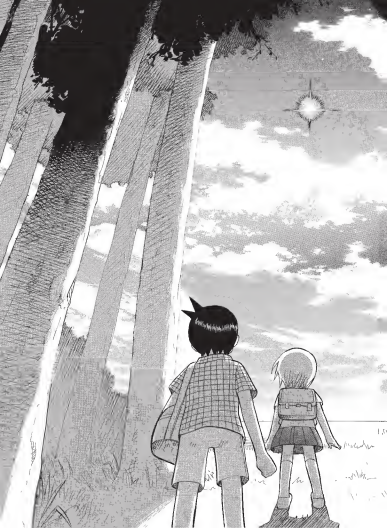


IT  
WASN'T  
LIKE ANY  
OTHER  
GREEN.

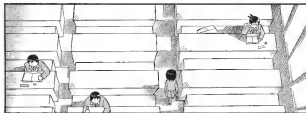
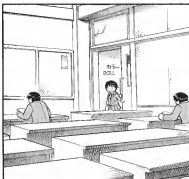
MY  
GRAMPS  
SAID  
HE SAW  
ONE.

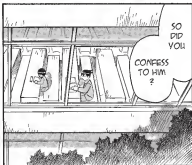




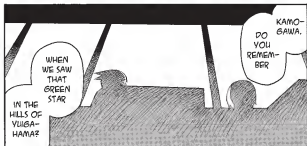




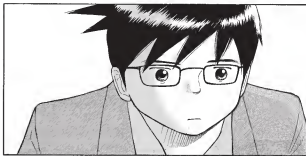


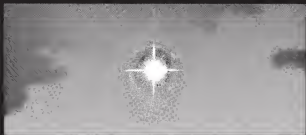
















AND  
GO TO  
OUTER  
SPACE

WHEN I  
GROW UP  
I'LL BE A  
ROCKET  
DRIVER

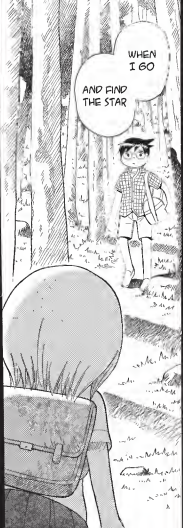


I'LL  
LOOK  
FOR  
IT.

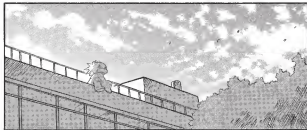
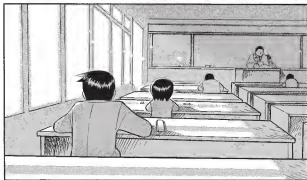
AND  
LOOK  
FOR  
THAT  
STAR  
WE  
SAW.



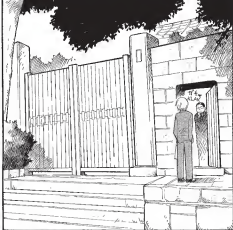
YOU'LL  
BE THE  
FIRST  
PERSON  
I TELL.

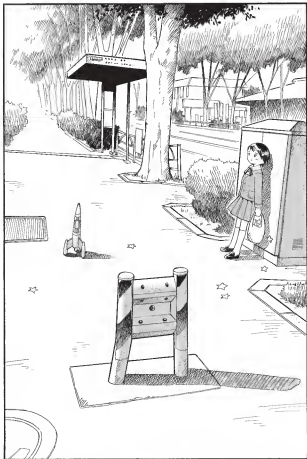


WHEN  
I GO  
AND FIND  
THE STAR









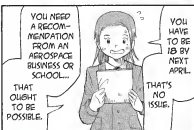
NEWS!  
I'VE GOT  
NEWS!

BIG NEWS!!

WE COULD HEAR YOU SCREAMING ALL THE WAY.

'MORNING, KEL.

I SAW THIS ON THE INTERNET AND PRINTED IT OUT.







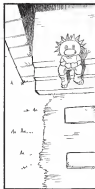


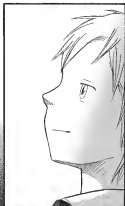


JUST THE FACT THAT THEY'VE BECOME SO IMPORTANT TO YOU















I  
WONDER  
WHAT  
HAD-  
PENED  
TO HER.

I HEARD  
UKITA'S  
GIRL HAD  
A SIMILAR  
ILLNESS.



I CAN'T  
SAY.



I...

WANT  
TO BE A  
DOCTOR.

WHAT  
DO YOU  
WANT TO BE  
WHEN YOU  
GROW UP?



YOU WANT  
TO BE AN  
ASTRONAUT.

NO.

NEVER LIE  
ABOUT  
YOUR  
DREAMS.





DON'T  
MAKE  
YOUR  
NEW  
MOTHER  
SAD.

DO  
YOU  
HEAR  
ME?



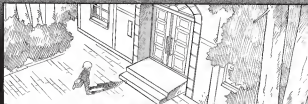
APPEARANCE  
IS VERY  
IMPORTANT  
TO A  
POLITICIAN.

HOW  
YOU  
LOOK  
TO  
OTHERS.

YOUR  
HAIR IS  
TOO  
LONG.  
  
GET IT  
CUT  
TOMOR-  
ROW.



START  
ACTING LIKE  
THE ELDEST  
SUZUKI SON!





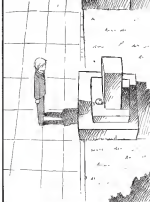








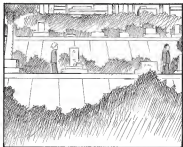






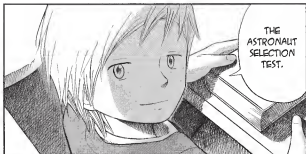


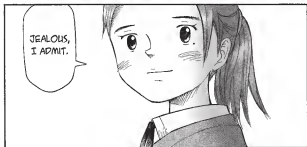








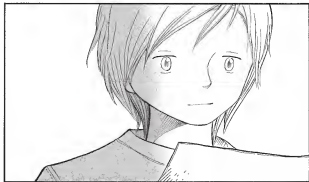




HEADING  
BACK MAY  
NOT BE  
AN OPTION,  
  
BUT AS LONG AS  
THE STAR BECKONS,  
SLOWLY BUT  
SURELY  
WE PRESS ON.



SOON  
WE'LL BE  
JUNIORS.

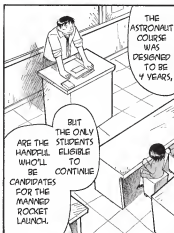






# MISSION:46







I DON'T THINK  
ANY STUDENT  
HERE IS  
THAT FAR  
AHEAD OR  
BEHIND  
ANYONE ELSE.

YOU STILL  
HAVE MANY  
OPPORTUNITIES  
AHEAD.

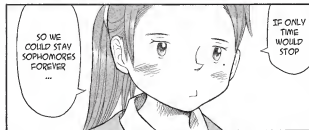
AT YOUR  
AGE,  
EVERY  
DAY IS  
MORE  
IMPORTANT  
THAN  
YOU  
REALIZE.

IN THE  
COMING  
YEAR  
MAKE  
EACH DAY  
COUNT.

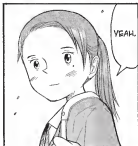
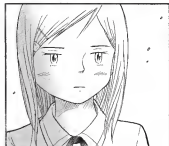
OUR  
LAST  
YEAR.

BUT KEEP  
FOLLOWING  
YOUR DREAM  
AND DON'T  
GIVE UP.

AND  
I KNOW  
I'VE TOLD  
YOU THIS  
BEFORE,



















TODAY'S  
PHYSICAL  
ENDURANCE  
TEST IS  
OVER.

YOUR  
ASSIGNMENT  
IS A DISCUSSION  
AROUND A  
GIVEN THEME.

TOMORROW,  
YOU WILL BE  
PLACED IN  
GROUPS OF  
10 IN  
DESIGNATED  
AREAS.

PLEASE  
LOOK OVER  
THE SHEETS  
THAT  
WE'RE  
HANDING  
OUT.

DISCUSSION





THEY MUST  
BE TESTING  
OUR ABILITY  
TO BREAK  
THROUGH  
A DEADLOCK  
AND BE  
CREATIVE.

UNFORESEEABLE  
THINGS  
OCCUR IN  
OUTER SPACE.



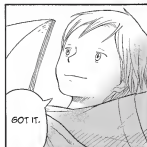
WHAT DOES  
A PRISON  
BREAK  
HAVE TO  
DO WITH  
BEING AN  
ASTRONAUT?



NO, I'M  
GOING  
TO BED.  
I'M  
WIRED  
OUT.  
YAWN



WANNA  
STAY UP  
AND  
THINK OF  
A PLAN?



GOT IT.



HA  
HA  
HA  
DON'T  
STAY UP  
LATE,  
SPACE  
SCHOOL  
KID.

THOUGH  
I'M SURE  
YOU'RE SUPER  
ANXIOUS!



HERE'S  
A LUCKY CHARM  
SO YOU PASS.

YOU'RE  
GOING AWAY  
FOR A WEEK  
FOR THE TEST,  
RIGHT?

THE 4 OF  
US TOOK  
TURNS  
FOLDING  
IT.



EVERY-  
ONE'S  
THOUGHTS  
ARE  
INSIDE.

DON'T  
THINK  
IT'S  
JUST  
AN  
ORI-  
GAMI  
STAR.



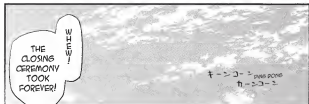
WISH  
ON  
A  
STAR?

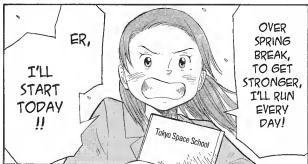
THANKS.



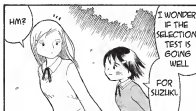












I JUST WANT  
ALL OF US  
TO STAY  
TOGETHER  
FOREVER.



IT'S JUST  
THAT  
I LIKE

KEI AND  
MARIKA,

FUCHUVA  
AND  
SUZUKI.

IT'S JUST  
THAT I

REALLY,  
REALLY

LIKE  
THEM.

SO IN  
ORDER TO  
ESCAPE  
FROM  
THE CELL,

YOU FIND  
A WEAK  
POINT IN THE  
WALL  
AND  
SCRAPE  
AWAY AT  
IT WITH  
A STONED  
FORK  
OR SPOON.

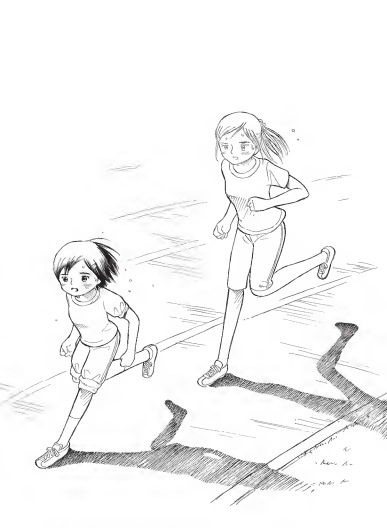










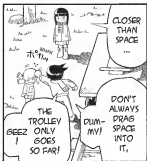




# GIOVANNI'S TICKET



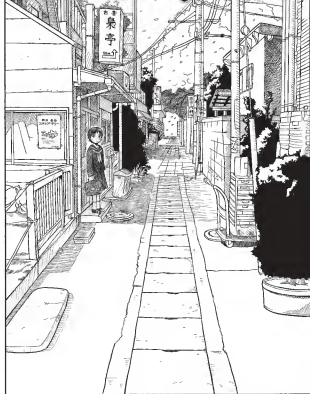








# Guide to Cherry Blossoms









...SUMI.

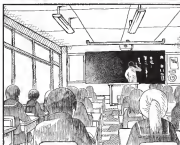
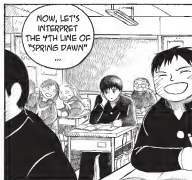


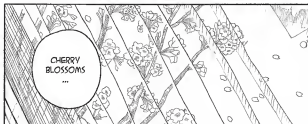
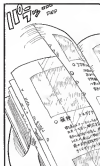
KASUMI!

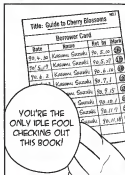


KASUMI  
SUZUKI!!

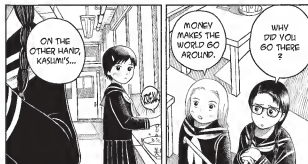


















I CAN'T  
DRAW TO  
SAVE  
MY LIFE.

THAT'S  
NOT  
TRUE.



I JUST  
THINK IT'S  
GREAT.

WHERE  
DID THAT  
COME  
FROM?



HUH?

YOU'RE  
REALLY  
GOOD AT  
ART.



PEOPLE  
DRAW WELL IF  
THEY'RE ALLOWED  
TO DRAW WHAT  
THEY LIKE.

THAT'S JUST  
BECAUSE  
YOU'RE BEING  
MADE TO  
DRAW.



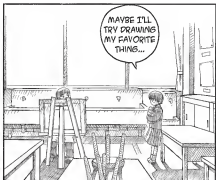
IT'S JUST  
THAT I  
DRAW  
ONLY WHAT  
I LIKE.

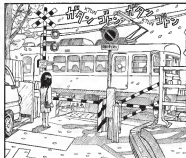
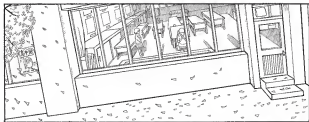


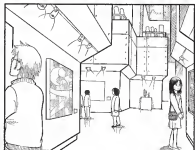
ART IS  
TRUTHFUL.  
YOUR FEELINGS  
COME RIGHT  
OUT.



ARE YOU  
SURE?

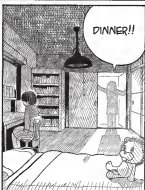
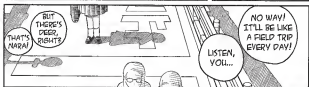






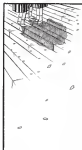




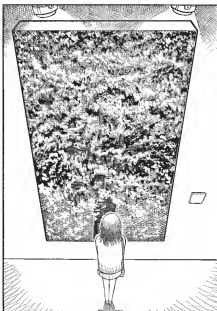












# Guide to Cherry



HMM?  
KASUMI  
SENSEI?



HEY,  
I'M THE  
JAPANESE  
TEACHER!

SORT  
OF...

HOW ODD  
TO SEE  
YOU LOOK  
SOMETHING  
UP.



MUST BE  
AROUND  
HERE...



PART-  
TIME.

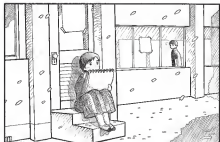
YES.

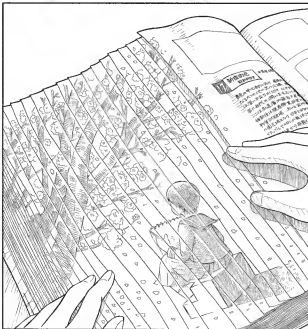
STAB













IT'S ALREADY  
CHERRY  
BLOSSOM  
SEASON.



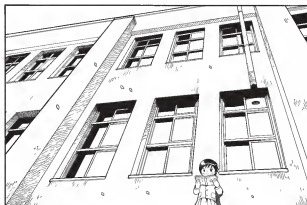
NOW IS  
THE BEST  
TIME TO  
SEE THE  
BLOSSOMS  
IN TOKYO.



IT'S THE  
SEASON FOR  
GRADUATION  
CEREMONIES  
AGAIN.



# ANOTHER SPICA



KOU YAGINUMA



But one  
Feb. 14,

something  
rather  
memorable  
happened.

Of course,  
I've never  
experienced  
anything  
particularly  
dramatic  
just  
because  
I was



Having to buy a  
thank-you gift for  
an obligatory  
chocolate  
I received on  
my birthday  
was  
pretty  
humiliating.



YOU'RE  
WORKING  
THE LATE  
SHIFT ON  
THE 14TH?

Since  
Miss S was  
graduating  
college  
that spring,  
the late  
shift on  
the 14th  
would be  
her last.



She'd taught me  
all the important  
things at work.



This is  
Miss S.  
She was  
my age,  
but she'd  
been  
working  
longer.











## Notes on the Translation

### P. 159

Japanese students are taught to read classic Chinese poetry. Similarities between the two languages don't extend far beyond the shared characters so the lessons can be challenging. The first line of "Spring Dawn," by eighth-century Chinese poet Meng Haoran, reads: "In spring I sleep past dawn." Note that Japanese primary and secondary education follows a 6-3-3 scheme so that ninth grade is the last year of middle school. (At Tokyo Space School, there exists a thirteenth grade for the most qualified students as became clear in this volume.) The academic year begins and ends in spring in Japan, and graduation ceremonies are often associated with cherry blossoms as in this story.



### P. 184

St. Valentine's Day is significant in Japan but with a local twist, thanks to the confectionery industry's role in promoting the foreign concept: women (but not men) give *chocolate* to their romantic interests on February 14. Lonely-hearts with neither partners nor fans also receive them, however, from women friends and coworkers in a face-saving gesture. The industry's February sales are spectacular as a result. Recipients are supposed to reciprocate with white-colored sweets on March 14, "White Day," according to the perspicacious marketers.



Production - Hiroko Mizuno  
Tomoe Tsutsumi

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MEDIA FACTORY, Inc., 2001-2009

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**"*Twins* is a wonderful coming-of-age tale about people stretched to something greater than themselves. The characters get richer and more complex as the story develops. Along with Asami, our vision of the world she lives in expands, too... I pick up each volume as it comes out and keep hoping to see Asami finally make it into space." —Comics Worth Reading**

